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IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claims 3 and 4 and AMEND claims 1, 6-8, 11 and 12 in accordance with the following:

1. (Currently Amended) A book management apparatus for managing book stocks of a plurality of libraries through a network, comprising:

book stock information management means for managing book stock information which is information about book stocks of individual libraries;

bibliographic information management means for managing bibliographic information comprising attributes of books managed by said book stock information management means; and

loan information management means for managing loan information about a loan of the book stocks of the individual libraries;

ordering information management means for managing ordering information on books newly ordered from the individual libraries;

ordering means for placing an order with a book wholesaler, based on the ordering information managed by the ordering information management means;

collation information receiving means for receiving collation information derived when a book ordered by the ordering means is accessioned by a corresponding library; and

collation information transmitting means for transmitting the collation information received by the collation information receiving means to the wholesaler.

2. (Original) The book management apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when loan of a book is conducted between different libraries, said loan information management means enables a predetermined library to modify the loan information of another library.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

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5. (Original) The book management apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising loan reserving means for registering a book ordered by said ordering means in said book stock information management means as an uncollated book and permitting loan of the book to be reserved even if the book is not yet delivered.

6. (Currently Amended) The book management apparatus according to claim ~~3~~ 1, wherein said ordering means places an order at a price reduced in accordance with an order quantity.

7. (Currently Amended) The book management apparatus according to claim ~~[[4]]~~ 1, further comprising reduced price estimating means for looking up the ordering information managed by said ordering information management means, to estimate a reduced price of a book which a library is going to order.

8. (Currently Amended) The book management apparatus according to claim ~~3~~ 1, further comprising statistical information generating means for looking up the loan information managed by said loan information management means or the ordering information managed by said ordering information management means, to generate statistical information about loan or ordering of books; and

providing means for providing the statistical information generated by said statistical information generating means to the individual libraries.

9. (Original) The book management apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising request receiving means for receiving a request from a user;

searching means, responsive to reception of a request for search for a book by said request receiving means, for searching the book stock information for information about a matching book; and

search result transmitting means for transmitting a result of search by said searching means to the user from whom the request has been received.

10. (Original) The book management apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising keyword registration means for registering a predetermined keyword if book stock information matching the book was not found by said searching means; and

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newly registered information transmitting means, responsive to new registration into the book stock information of a book matching the keyword registered by said keyword registration means, for transmitting the newly registered information about the book to a user with respect to whom the keyword has been registered.

11. (Currently Amended) A book management method for managing book stocks of a plurality of libraries through a network; comprising:

~~a book stock information management step of managing book stock information which is information about book stocks of individual libraries;~~

~~a bibliographic information management step of managing bibliographic information comprising attributes of books managed in said book stock information management step~~ the managing; and

~~a loan information management step of managing loan information about a loan of the book stocks of the individual libraries;~~

managing ordering information on books newly ordered from the individual libraries;

placing an order with a book wholesaler, based on the managed ordering information;

receiving collation information derived when an ordered book is accessioned by a corresponding library; and

transmitting the received collation information to the wholesaler.

12. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable recording medium ~~recording~~ storing a program for causing a computer to perform a process of managing book stocks of a plurality of libraries through a network, wherein the computer is caused to ~~function as~~ perform at least

~~book stock information management means for managing book stock information which is information about book stocks of individual libraries;~~

~~bibliographic information management means for managing bibliographic information comprising attributes of books managed by the book stock information management means in the managing; and;~~

~~loan information management means for managing loan information about a loan of the book stocks of the individual libraries;~~

managing ordering information on books newly ordered from the individual libraries;

placing an order with a book wholesaler, based on the managed ordering information;

receiving collation information derived when an ordered book is accessioned by a corresponding library; and

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transmitting the received collation information to the wholesaler.